

LIFE IS LOST IN A FIRE DUE TO BURGLARS

Attempt to Blow Open a Safe in the Matthews Block in Lakewood Results in a Blaze that Causes the Death of Abraham Van Wagner and Injury of Two Women.

GUESTS IN THE PALMER HOUSE IN A WILD PANIC.

This Building Adjoined the Burned Stores, but the Flames Were Kept from Spreading to It—Mother's Vain Effort to Save Her Aged Father from Death After She Had Rescued Her Babe.

(Special to The Evening World.)
LAKEWOOD, N. J., April 11.—The attempt of burglars to blow a safe in the store of William E. Matthews, in the Matthews Block, at Fourth street and Clifton avenue, early to-day resulted in a fire which caused the death of one man, the serious injury of two women, and peril to the lives of one hundred and fifty people.

The Palmer House, next door to the Matthews Block, was threatened for a time, and the fear-inspired guests rushed to the street in their night clothes. While the explosion caused the fatal fire, it was also the means of saving many lives. The noise it made awakened all the tenants in the Matthews Block, and caused them to run for safety without delay. To this is due the fact that more lives were not sacrificed, for if the fire had started without preliminary warning it is doubtful if anybody would have been saved from the burning building.

The Matthews Block was a fire trap, of frame construction, three stories high. The ground floor was occupied by the Matthews store, a piano store and a paint store. Mr. Matthews had a fine stock of fruits and candies and also conducted a big dairy business. In anticipation of a heavy Easter trade he had bought a big stock of goods that hid from view from the street the safe in his office.

Used Big Charge of Explosive.
The burglars entered the store through a door in the rear, which they forced. They drilled a hole in the door with the safe, attached a fuse and set off the explosive. Evidently they were inexperienced, for the amount they used would have destroyed a safe three times the size of that of the Matthews place.

In a corner of the office was a pile of excelsior and scraps of paper. The flash from the explosion undoubtedly reached this pile of rubbish, and as the burglars fled, leaving the rear door open, there was a draught that swept the flames through the store.

Manager R. Stewart Miller and five machinists were at work on the boiler in the basement of the Palmer House when the explosion occurred. They hurried to the street and found the Matthews store in flames, the fire eating through the flimsy partition to the store next door. On the two upper floors of the structure there were twenty persons asleep. A stairway to the apartments on the upper floors was on the outside of the building on the Clifton avenue side. While one of the machinists ran to the hotel to telephone an alarm Mr. Miller and the others rushed up the stairs to help out the imperiled occupants of the building.

Rushed from the Fire Trap.
Already they were running through the hallways to safety, knowing that if the fire ever got headway it would lick up the old structure like tinder.

Mrs. Mary Van Mater lived on the second floor with her six-months-old baby. Her husband was not at home. On the third floor, in apartments directly above, lived her father, Abraham Van Wagner, ninety years old and very feeble.

When awakened by the sound of the explosion her first thought was of her father. Leaving her little one in bed, she ran to the room in which the old man slept, and found him getting out of bed. He said he would not leave until he was dressed, and with the obstinacy of old age resisted the efforts of his daughter to lead him to safety.

She remained until love for her baby called her downstairs again. She found the little one unconscious, and, thinking it dead, hurried to the street. The body of Mr. Van Wagner was found to-day on the floor of his room. He had been suffocated.

All of the other tenants managed to escape before the fire got into their rooms.

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VAN HALTREN.

MCGRAW SAYS:

"For the first time in years the Giants have been South. We practised in Savannah for weeks, and got into good preliminary shape. I coached the men in batting, base running and fielding. They all worked hard, and the result was marked improvement. We have played in the South and West strong teams, such as Savannah, Columbus, Louisville, and here at the Polo Grounds this week we have satisfactorily disposed of Fordham and Columbia colleges.

"I think I can say that the New York National League baseball team will be one of the strongest ever representing this city. I am sure it will make a good showing. The men are in better shape at this period of the year than they have ever been, and that's a great help to begin the season with. The team is better balanced, the pitching force is as strong as any team in the League. The fielders are clever and hard hitters, and we have some of the best baserunners in the business. So look out for the Giants this year. One of the things that please me most is the return of Van Haltren, who broke his leg last year in a game. He will strengthen and steady the outfield, and he is always dangerous when he has a bat in his hand."



KILLED WOMAN AND HIMSELF.

Pascal La Tour Blows Off Head of Employer's Wife with Shotgun and Ends His Own Life—Thought to Be Insane.

HUSBAND FINDS THE BODIES.

When Giovanni Sabotti, a mechanic of this city, went to his farm at Dix Hills, L. I., four miles from Huntington, last night he found his wife, Julia, and his hired man Pascal La Tour, a Cuban, dead. La Tour had blown off the head of the woman with a shot gun and then killed himself with a revolver. Sabotti spent most of his time in this city working at his trade, leaving his wife and La Tour alone on the farm. La Tour had worked for him for ten years. He was looked upon by Sabotti and his wife as a friend of the family. Occasionally he showed signs of a disordered intellect, but he was considered harmless.

The husband found the body of his wife lying in a doorway between the parlor and the bedroom of the little house on the farm. La Tour lay in the parlor, with a shotgun with one barrel empty under his body. In his right hand he held a revolver. He had put a bullet into his brain.

Sabotti hurried to Huntington, where he notified the authorities of his gruesome discovery. Coroner Gibson went to the house. He said that the crime had been committed about midnight on Thursday. Everything indicates that La Tour killed his employer's wife while insane. He was a widower with three children, and one of them is an insane asylum.

The bodies were removed to Sammis's undertaking establishment, in Huntington, and an inquest was held to-day. Mrs. Sabotti said that they had not seen La Tour about lately, and there was an impression abroad that he was ill and that Mrs. Sabotti was taking care of him.

La Tour was a Cuban, almost black. The appearance of the room in which the bodies were found indicates that there was a struggle before the tragedy.

CHAS. O'MALLEY DISQUALIFIED.

Gentlemen Riders in a Mix-Up in Their Own Steeplechase Event at the Benning Race Track.

MISS ROOSEVELT PRESENT.

THE WINNERS.

FIRST RACE—One mile and a half; hurdles.—Ben Battle (13 to 5) 1, Alma Girl (5 to 2) 2, J. A. Warner 3. Time—3:18 2-5.

SECOND RACE—Four and a half furlongs.—Contentious (1 to 2), 1; Nine Pine (6 to 1), 2; Termagant, 3. Time, 0:56 2-5.

THIRD RACE—Steeplechase: Joe Leiter (2 to 1), 1; Twilight (10 to 1) 2, Kalorama 3. Time—4:26. Charles O'Malley won but was disqualified.

FOURTH RACE—Six furlongs.—Shrine (3 to 2), 1; Alan (13 to 20) 2, Merrimack 3. Time—1:14.

(Special to The Evening World.)
BENNING RACE TRACK, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 11.—This was another field day for the Washingtonians. There was a hurdle race and a steeplechase on the programme, so that the local enthusiasts' cup of happiness was filled to overflowing. Notwithstanding that the weather was threatening rain and the breezes which blew across the Potomac Plains were cold and chilling, they turned out in such numbers that when counted up they made one of the banner attendances of the meeting.

To the regulars there was nothing on the card that appealed to them. The only good race on the programme was the fourth, which promised a cracking good contest between Alan and Shrine. This pair was meeting at even weights and as both had been beaten by Mrs. Frank Foster there was a good line for the talent to follow. They made Alan their choice, but there were many of the wise division who thought that Shrine would take the Goughacre representative into camp.

The track was almost fast. But there was rain in the air, and the chances are that the races on the last two days of the meeting will be run in heavy going.

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GIANTS SCORE TWICE IN FIRST.

New York National Leaguers Play Jersey Citys, the First Strong Team They Have Met Since They Began Spring Practice in the South.

Good Crowd on Hand to See the Game—Manager McGraw Shifts His Men, Trying Various Pitchers, Catchers and Fielders.

The Giants, after having played themselves into shape in the South and having beaten the Fordham College and Columbia University teams, moved over to Jersey City this afternoon to tackle the Eastern League team of that town.

The Jersey Citys are professionals and as this is the first try-out of New York's National Leaguers against men of their own kind, a goodly gang of rooters went over the ferry to have a look at the play.

Manager Billy Murray of the Jersey Citys met Johnny McGraw, of the Giants, as soon as the New Yorkers turned up at the grounds, and told him that if he wanted to win he'd have to stretch himself.

"We've got a team here," said Murray, "that'll make a lot of you swell ones think you don't know what baseball is."

McGraw just grinned and sent his men out to practice. They seemed in good trim. The grounds were in good shape also. From the preliminary practice the Jersey Citys appeared to know what they were doing and a few bets were made by their enthusiastic admirers that they would get away with the game.

There was a surprisingly good crowd out, several thousand people going through the turnstile before the call for play. They cheered every play made by either side. The New Yorkers took the

field first for practice. While Van Haltren batted a lot of hot ones through the infield Mathewson and McGinnity were shooting their curves with great vigor.

Billy Launder showed off to great advantage. He grabbed a lot of snailing grounders with such vim that the grandstand howled.

When the Jersey Citys came out for their warming up they got a great reception from the fans. "Gene" McGann and Pfannmiller, the two star twirlers of the team, on whom Manager Murray is depending for success in the pennant race this season, headed the team and were uproariously received.

McGann was very strenuous in his practice pitching. He has a tremendously speedy ball and has made a fine reputation in the smaller leagues.

The star of the grand stand was Jack Munroe, the bruiser blast from Butte, who, to-morrow, will make his Weehawken debut as an umpire to-morrow.

"I'm here to get a line on the umpiring," explained Mr. Munroe, gracefully dropping three snouts into his mouth and blowing the debris off his nose.

First Inning.
Brown started off with a clean single to right. Van Haltren sacrificed. McGann struck out, and the populace applauded. Germany followed Ireland. Mertes adding to the gaiety of the nations by hitting a lovely one clean over center, which was so badly judged by McGann that Mertes made a home-run and sent Brown in ahead of him. Then Babb knocked a pretty single over shortstop, but in attempting to steal second ran over the base and was caught. Two runs.

Griffin grounded a ball to Launder.

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GIANTS BEAT JERSEY CITY.

SCORE BY INNINGS.

NEW YORK	2	0	0	0	2	1	8
JERSEY CITY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Third Inning—Brown was thrown out at first by Lamar Van Haltren fouled out. McGann was thrown out. No runs. Lamar fled out to Mertes. McGann did likewise to Brown. Merty put Griffin out at first. No runs.

Fourth Inning—Pfannmiller relived McGann in the box for Jersey. Mertes walked and stole second. Babb ballooned to Griffin. Launder sacrificed, Mertes taking third. Gilbert out at first. No runs.

YACHT RELIANCE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED.

BRISTOL, R. I., April 11.—The Cup Defender Reliance was successfully launched at 5:44 o'clock this afternoon.

RESULTS OF OTHER GAMES.

At Annapolis—Navy, 8; Seventh Regiment, 1.
At Cambridge—Harvard, 15; Colby, 3.

LATE RESULTS AT BENNING.

Fifth Race—Drop o' Rye 1, Benefit 2, Michaelmas 3.
Sixth Race—Pageant 1, Merrymaker 2, Benckart 3.

AT MEMPHIS.

Third Race—Rightful 1, Floyd K. 2, Jake Greenburg 3.

THREE PERSONS POISONED BY FOOD.

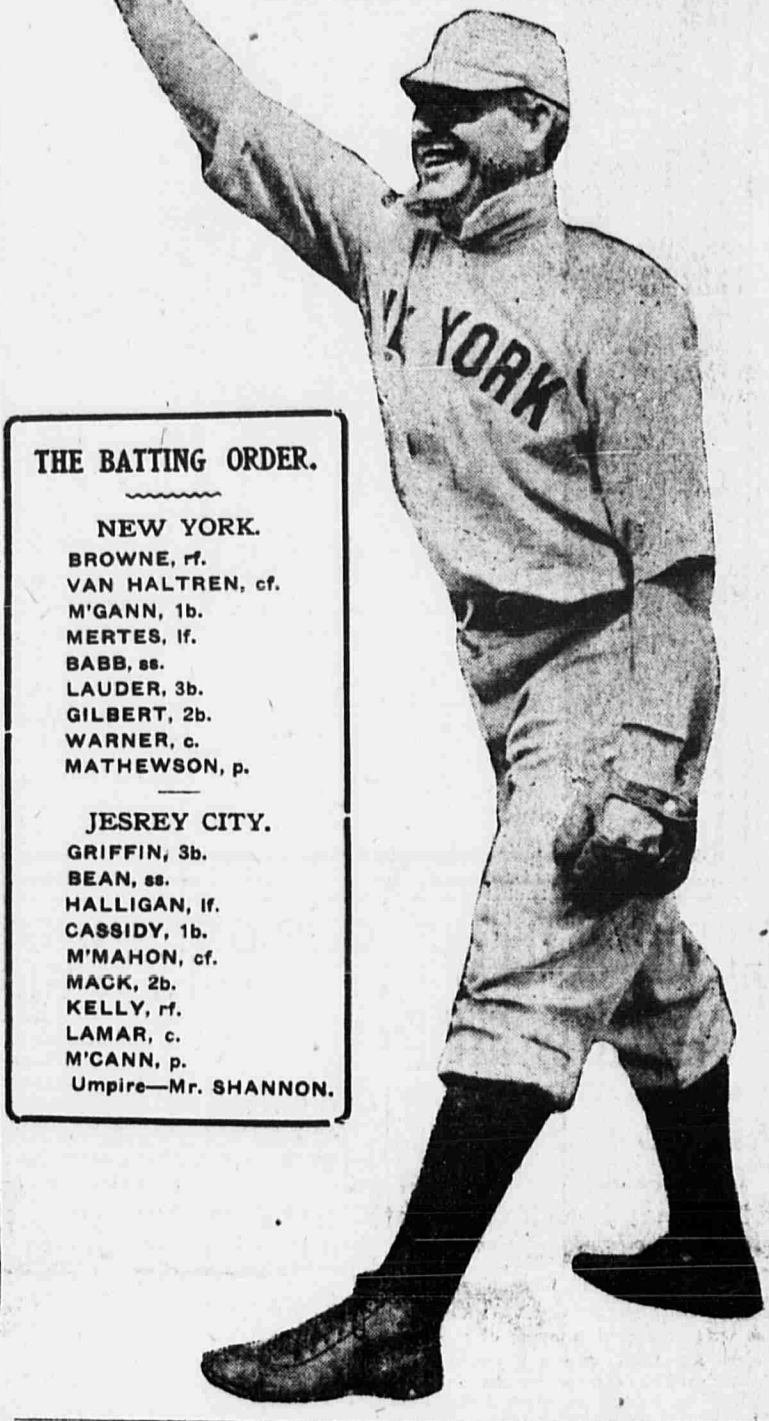
MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., April 11.—The housekeeper and two children of Charles Nichols, of No. 282 North Fulton avenue, became dangerously ill to-day after having eaten luncheon. Drs. Tallman, Van Totten and Strong have been working over them all afternoon, but the nature of their illness has not been made public. Mr. Nichols is away from home.

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CRONIN.

RAINY DAISIES FOR EASTER.

Woe to the fine feathers and flowers and furbelows on the morrow! The unfeeling weather man announces that all signs to-day point to a very moist Easter Sunday. He doesn't predict that the moisture will come in the form of an April shower, but darkly hints that it will begin raining to-night and continue to-morrow.



THE BATTING ORDER.

NEW YORK.
BROWNE, rf.
VAN HALTREN, cf.
M'GANN, lb.
MERTES, if.
BABB, ss.
LAUDER, 3b.
GILBERT, 2b.
WARNER, c.
MATHEWSON, p.

JERSEY CITY.

GRIFFIN, 3b.
BEAN, ss.
HALLIGAN, if.
CASSIDY, lb.
M'MAHON, cf.
MACK, 2b.
KELLY, rf.
LAMAR, c.
M'GANN, p.
Umpire—Mr. SHANNON.

ALL READY TO LAUNCH CUP DEFENDER RELIANCE.

She Will Be Christened by Miss Nora Iselin, Daughter of Her Chief Owner, and Bristol, R. I., Is Prepared for an Outburst of Patriotic Enthusiasm in Honor of the Event.

(Special to The Evening World.)

BRISTOL, R. I., April 11.—The final preparations for the launching of the new cup defender Reliance were completed this afternoon and the programme announced by the designers. Promptly at 5:30 o'clock Capt. Nat Herreshoff, standing amidst the deck of the new yacht, will pull a signal cord which will ring a gong in the steam windlass shed. Then Engineer Robertson will start the engines and the big iron drum supporting the steel cable attached to the cradle will slowly unroll. Simultaneously with the first lurch of the cradle Miss Nora Iselin will place a bottle of champagne against the starboard bow and crack it with a tiny silver hammer, exclaiming: "I christen thee Reliance!"

Then the latest Herreshoff wonder will slide down the ways. There will be no plunge, but a gentle, smooth glide of the flange wheels of the cradle down the 320 feet of rails of the marine railway, and when deep water is reached the cradle fastenings will be knocked off and the big racer will float amid a screech of sirens and a tooting of whistles.

Since the accident to the Defender on her launching the plunge from the ways has been abandoned, the Columbia and Constitution flipping down the incline with a mathematical precision. Capt. Herreshoff estimates that it will take nearly five minutes for the Reliance to reach the water and five more minutes will be consumed before the cradle fastenings are knocked apart.

At 10 o'clock this morning the water front section of the south shed was open and the first view of the sloop was obtained.

TYPICAL AMERICAN SKIMMING DISH.

According to yachting experts she is a typical American skimming dish, though she possesses a far more graceful symmetry than any cup yacht the Herreshoffs have heretofore turned out. While she is almost as flat as the Independence, she has not the hard turn to the bilge that marred the beauty of the Boston boat. She has a beautiful turn to the bilge, and her forward frame has an easy, graceful sweep, more of the V shape than the U, giving her a smooth, easy entrance.

At the time of the launching Reliance will fly the American ensign at the stern, on a little mast amidst the private signal of C. Oliver Iselin, the managing owner, and at the bow the signals of the other members of the syndicate. Miss Nora Iselin went aboard the Sunbeam shortly after midnight, to remain until launching time, and when the tender was dressed in the morning she is slated in the selection of the colors. Others on the Sunbeam were William Butler Duncan, Jr., Woodbury Kane, Newberry Lawton,

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CHALLENGER BEATEN BY OLD BOAT.

During a Real, Live Race To-day, the Shamrock III, Comes In Only 6 Minutes 31 Seconds Ahead of Shamrock I., Though the Latter Boat Had Lost Time by a Collision.

OLD BOAT'S ALLOWANCE OF 10 MINUTES TOO MUCH.

There Was Prize Money Offered by Sir Thomas Lipton and the Crew of Shamrock I. Hustled to Clear Away the Wrecked Spinnaker—Shamrock III, in Order to Even Thing Up, Lowered Spinnaker.

WEYMOUTH, England, April 11.—In one of the most exciting yacht races ever seen off this coast Shamrock III, Sir Thomas Lipton's new America's Cup challenger, was beaten by Shamrock I. in a thirty-four mile race to-day.

The contest was in deadly earnest. Sir Thomas had offered prize money to the winning crew and a handicap of ten minutes was given to the old boat in order to make the contest a fair one. Both crews were very eager to win and none of the fine points of seamanship little tricks that sailors know, was neglected on either boat.

Shamrock III, finished first by more than six minutes, elapsed time, but lost on her handicap. The old Shamrock sailed a remarkable race. When half through the second round she was fouled by a steam yacht. When the two vessels cleared away Shamrock I. had lost her spinnaker boom and spinnaker. The steam yacht had lost her bowsprit.

Crippled, but She Won.

Shamrock I. escaped other injuries and continued the race. Her crew of splendidly drilled sailors worked like Trojans to clear away the tangle of rigging and spars, and did so with incredible swiftness.

Capt. Bob Wringe, on Shamrock III, with sportsmanlike fairness, doused his spinnaker soon after the old boat lost hers, so that there was not as great disadvantage to the old boat as there might have been.

To-day's race was under strictly racing conditions. The starting line was off Portland, thence easterly to a mark off Lulworth Cove and back across the mouth of Weymouth Bay to a mark of Portland and thence home, twice around.

A fine, fresh west-southwest breeze, of sufficient strength to cause the yachts, under club-topails, to heel over and make fast sailing, was blowing as the two Shamrocks manoeuvred for position.

New Boat Is Handier.

During this jockeying the Shamrock III, proved both faster and handier, as Capt. Wringe had easily the best of the start. The preparatory signal was given at 9:55 A. M., and just before the starting gun was fired at 10 o'clock both yachts stayed by the outer mark-boat. The Shamrock I. followed down the water of the Cup 27/100th of a mile and was two or three lengths ahead as they bore away for the run.

The starting times were:

The Shamrock III..... 10:00:00

The Shamrock I..... 10:02:30

The yacht's quickly squared away, as spinnakers and the new boat immediately opened out, constantly increasing her lead from her opponent as they ran towards Lulworth Cove. The wind remained fresh and steady, and the racers made excellent sailing as they ran across on the first leg of the course. The Shamrock I. followed down the water of the Cup 27/100th of a mile and was quite unable to hold her. The Shamrock III, spinning out a bigger lead all the time.

In twenty minutes' running the challenger gained two minutes.

The times off White Nose were:

The Shamrock III..... 10:22:30

The Shamrock I..... 10:24:35

Throughout the rest of the run the new boat continued to prove that she

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